SOUTH VIET NAM *In struggle*

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C/O

DAZIMINA HANOI

19, *Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN*

and other South Viet Nam NFL Missions in foreign countries

Lenin after the seizure of revolutionary power in Simbirk

(Sketch by N.N. Joukov)

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Lenin's Centenary
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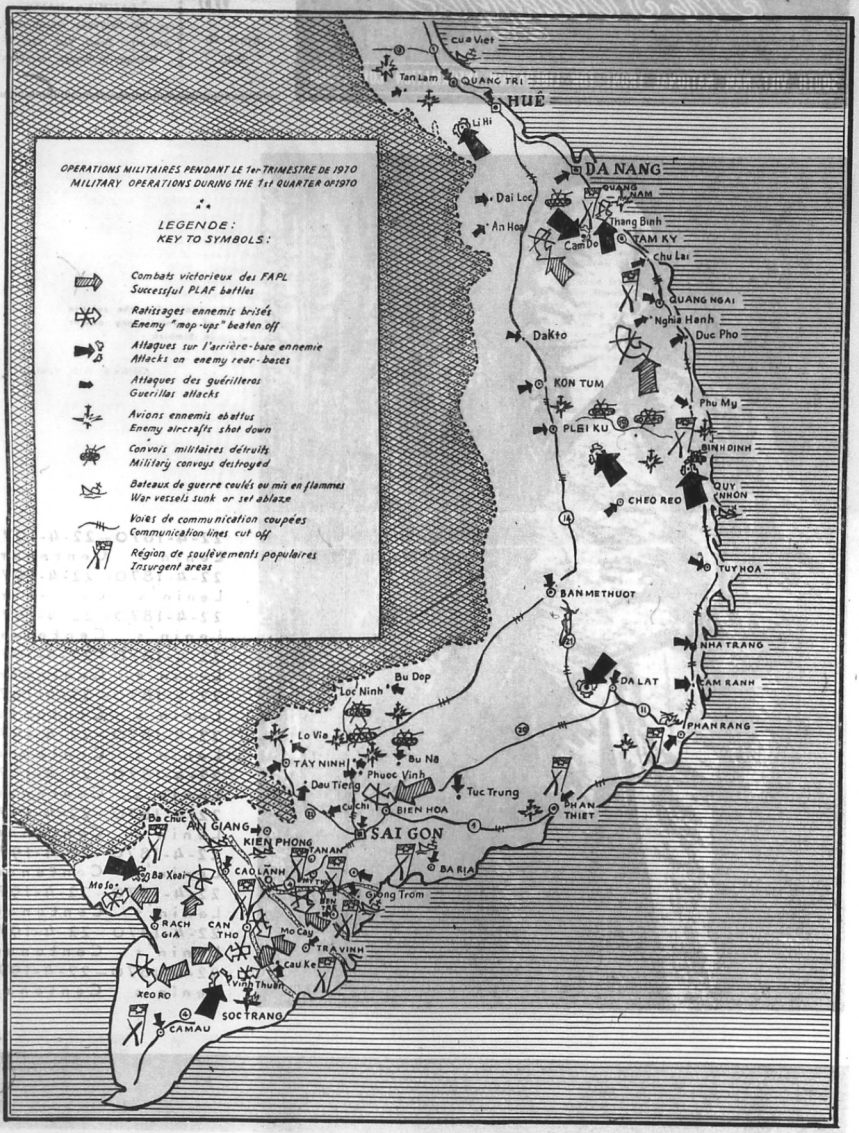
Lenin's Centenary

MILITARY OPERATIONS DURING THE 1st QUARTER OF 1970



From April 4 to 12, 1970

PLAF'S VIOLENT AND SUCCESSIVE ATTACKS

GI's under violent PLAF fire ducking for cover

FROM *April* 4 to 12, 1970, pursuing their offensive, the PLAF of South Viet Nam continued to attack violently and successively on many US and puppet positions, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy.

The most desperate combats broke out at *Dak Seang* in *Kontum province*. Almost all the days and nights, the PLAF slammed heavy gun fire into the *Dak Seang* "*Special Forces*" *camp* and its environs, and also intercepted the US and puppet battalions sallying out around the camp.

From the night of *March* 31 to *April* 7, the PLAF wiped out over 1,200 enemy troops, including 22 American advisers, and capturing many others. They also shot down or destroyed on the ground 29 aircraft, including 5 big cargo planes, wrecked 13 howitzers or mortars and 5 military vehicles, razed 17 barracks and billets and set aflame 6 depots of ammunition or gasoline. In terms of units, they wiped out one puppet ranger battalion and heavily trounced the field command of the 24th Special Zone in Dakto.

According to Western reports, the PLAF on April 12 twice intercepted enemy troops coming to the rescue of the besieged forces in Dak Seang. One of the battles was fought against a battalion of the puppet 42nd infantry regiment about 800 metres West-Northwest of Dak Seang. Another battle was delivered to a montagnard battalion led by American "advisers" about 300 metres from Dak Seang, killing many enemy troops.

The garrisoning troops in Dak Seang have suffered heavy casualties and are meeting big problems in supply. Enemy probes were beaten back and enemy reinforcements intercepted, causing the morale of the puppet forces to sink even lower. This was manifest in the anti-war action taken by a whole ranger battalion of ethnic minorities in the "Special forces" camp at Dakto who refused to go to the rescue of the battered troops at Dak Seang.

The victories recorded by the PLAF at Dak Seng marked a new defeat of the "clear and hold" strategy and the "Vietnamization" of the war plan of the US on the *High Plateaux*.

Elsewhere, the PLAF mounted powerful attacks on the enemy in many provinces of South Viet Nam.

On the night of *April* 4 *and at dawn on April* 5, the PLAF again mounted concerted attacks on enemy throughout South Viet Nam. US sources said that 56 targets were struck by the PLAF's heavy guns, including the *Da Nang port and many positions in Kontum town*.

Western reports on *April* 6 said the PLAF lobbed heavy gun fire into 41 enemy positions in South Viet Nam during the night. Another scene of mounting violence was the *provinces of Kontum, Binh Dinh, Thua Thien and Quang Tri*.

"*On April* 8, 33 enemy positions came under heavy gun fire, including the provincial capital of Kontum Da Nang and Cam Ranh air force bases. AFP said that "one of the hardiest hit was a US camp just 12 kms from the "giant" American coastal base of Cam Ranh. "The heaviest casualties were suffered by a 25th infantry division patrol in Tay Ninh province", *Reuter* on April 8 reported.

The PLAF on *April* 9 mounted powerful attacks on the enemy in many places, shelling at least 35 targets and many GIs were killed or wounded, according to Western reports.

From April to to 12, 1970, successively the PLAF sprang simultaneous artillery attacks on enemy positions in various localities, including the positions near Kontum and Pleiku town and others in Darlac, Ban Tre, An Giang, Rach Gia, Tri Thien provinces.

During the 1st quarter of 1970:

Repeated and Successful Offensives

FOLLOWING up their successes, and putting into effect the many lessons learned in 1969, the population of South Viet Nam and their armed forces have, since early this year, brought the people's war to a new high.

1. Striking at the very roots of the 'pacification program'.

Since early January the enemy has fielded puppet main-force units, including general reserve forces, to tilt the balance of forces in their favour on the rural front. But they have met with strong resistance from the guerrillas. Under diversified forms and with all kinds of weapons at their command, our regional forces have frustrated the action of all 'support pacification' units.

In January alone, in Central and South Trung Bo 13,000 adverse troops were put out of action. In four provinces of the Nam Bo plain—An Giang, Rach Gia, Ben Tre and My Tho—the number of enemy soldiers wiped out reached the 3,000-mark. Three main-force divisions and two marine brigades of the Saigon army stationed in the Nam Bo delta suffered 18,000 casualties in the past three months.

Parallel to the knocking out of 'support pacification' forces, it struck staggering blows at 'pacification' cadres, intelligence agents, cruel civil servants at the grass-root levels, and other categories of wicked ruffians owing blood debts to the people. At the same time, guerrilla warfare has generated good conditions for deep stabs at troop concentrations and training centres, and army headquarters. Each of such actions normally resulted in least a hundred enemy casualties. For instance, in a surprise attack on their billets on the night of January 31, Ba Ria guerrillas disabled nearly 200 'pacification' agents. On the 18th and 20th of the same month guerrillas and regionals wiped out a combined 'pacification' unit in An Giang province. In Tuyen Duc regional troops killed about 100 in a single night.

Guerrilla warfare has on the other hand provided an effective support to the people's uprising and break-up of the enemy grip. So 'strategic hamlets' were thus erased in South Trung Bo in January, 42 in 21 villages of My Tho province, Nam Bo. This process, which was particularly devastating in recent months in the Nam Bo plain, has utterly nonplussed the aggressors and the Saigon administration. More and more Western reports pointed out the initial failure of the 'pacification' and 'Vietnamization' schemes.

2. Harassing hinterland bases

Though operating in a very dangerous situation and most complex environment, the guerrillas and self-defence units inside, and in the periphery of urban centres have ceaselessly, on the one hand, liquidated cruel agents, and on the other supplied facilities for the PLAF to mount forceful onsets on US-puppet hinterland bases. In spite of stricter security precautions no adverse base has been immune to the assaults of the Liberation forces in the past three months, and not a single day has passed without wicked agents in the cities and provincial and district towns and military subsectors coming under fire. The so-called "forward defence" in Eastern Nam Bo were subjected to PLAF frequent strikes. American air cavalry and armour, and puppet paratroops incurred heavy losses. Important bases from Quang Tri to Ca Mau and a great many points in border areas were repeatedly harassed by Liberation infantry and artillery. There both US and puppets paid a substantial tool in manpower and war means.

Even in Saigon an armed self-defence unit achieved a feat of arms against a US officers' seven-storeyed living quarters on January 31 night, killing over 100 inmates. Four days earlier, guerrillas wiped out 50 US troops in Tran Hung Dao Street. In February and March guerrillas blew up several office buildings and police stations in the city's central wards.

In Da Nang, Da Lat, Pleiku, Quy Nhon, Soc Trang, Rach Gia, the PLAF made deep thrusts and inflicted significant casualties. Remarkable were their offensives on Highways No 9, 12, 4, 19, 21 North and West of the Quang Tri — Thua Thien—Hue theatre, South of Da Nang, in the Mao River area, Tay Ninh, Binh Long, An Giang, the Moso mount area and the military subsector of Phuoc Long.

The above successes were made possible by the continuous growth of the Liberation armed forces, their clever combat methods, their courage and the surprise factor that they made the most of.

3. Continuously harassing communications and destroying aeroplanes and armoured vehicles.

To boost the sagging morale of their troops, the US-puppets have deployed for support more and more planes, tanks and warships. Never, however, have they met with so intense and devastating return fire as in the last three months from the PLAF. Indeed, the plane-hunting network has been extended in all theatres and plane-shooting methods largely perfected. As a result, the daily number of aircraft brought down has averaged 10. On certain days the score hit the 20-mark as on January 2, and February 2, 8 and 21. Some fights ended with 7 or 8 shot down. According to incomplete data, the figure of planes grounded by the PLAF exceeded 500—among which 270 with infantry weapons.

UPI, March 5, reported that the number of helicopters lost since the beginning of this year had increased by 60 per cent in comparison with the same period last year.

Guerrillas and regional troops constantly seized off land and river communications and destroyed military vehicles and warships.

In February alone Liberation forces intercepted the enemy 80 times on Highways No 14, 19, 21, wrecking 200 armoured cars. From March 2 to 10, 60 tanks and armoured personnel carriers were blasted out of commission in Tay Ninh. Highways No 4, 15 were heavily and constantly assaulted by the PLAF.

In the Mekong delta and around Saigon, ship-hunting teams sank or damaged 40 warships or combat launches in the first three weeks of March, and several 10,000 to 15,000-ton military transports in the first three months of this year. *Naturally the destruction of fairly large number of armoured vehicles, aircraft and warships in the past three months has adversely affected the fire power and mobility of the American and puppet troops, further downgraded their already low fighting spirit and rendered more onerous US war burden.*

LENINISM AND THE LIBERATION OF OPPRESSED PEOPLES

HO CHI MINH

...FOR the Asian peoples as well as for the peoples throughout the world who are fighting for peace, independence, democracy and socialism, Leninism is like the sun which brings with it a cheerful life. Lenin always attached great importance to the movement for national liberation waged by the Asian peoples, and regarded it as part and parcel of the struggle put up by the toiling masses throughout the world against the imperialist oppressors. Lenin made it clear that the awakening of Asia and the first struggle waged by the advanced proletariat in Europe to seize power, marked a new era in world history, an era which began with the 20th century. In 1913, V.I. Lenin wrote: "The whole of Europe takes the leading place; the entire bourgeoisie in Europe is colluding with all the reactionary forces and mediaeval forces in China."

"But all young Asia, that is, hundreds of millions of toiling masses in Asia, has the proletariat of all civilised countries as a staunch ally. No force in the world is able to check the victory of the proletariat in the liberation of the European and Asian peoples."

Today, in the midst of the 20th century only, the "Young Asia" referred to by Lenin, is precisely the People's Republic of China, the People's Republic of Mongolia, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. In other regions of Asia, similar young forces are rising to struggle for national liberation. These scientific provisions of the great revolutionary strategist have been substantiated so swiftly that the imperialist camp becomes anxious and fearful!

If, under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist parties, the enslaved peoples of Asia have recorded practical successes, it is because they have followed Vladimir Ilyitch great teachings.

In his appeal to the revolutionaries in the East, Lenin wrote: "You have before you a task which was unknown to the Communists in the world: relying on the theory and common practice of communism, and applying them to specific conditions which do not exist in Europe, you must know how to use them in the conditions in which the peasants are the basic masses and the task is not to struggle against capitalism, but against mediaeval vestiges."

This is an instruction most valuable for a country like ours in which 90 per cent of the population live on agriculture, and a great deal of the vestiges of rotten feudalism and mandarinate still exist...

(Excerpts from an article appearing in *Pravda*, April 18, 1955)

Lenin's identification card, under the disguise of a Finnish worker.

Lenin speaking to the revolutionary people before the Finnish railway station. (Leningrad)

Lenin's thatch hut at Razliv.

In the footsteps of Lenin

(Continued)

I went to the Soviet Union again, in September 1966.

Moscow was dressed in her gorgeous autumn attire. The woods on the outskirts were tinted brown, yellow, blue, white and pink. The rows of trees on the left side of the Red Square were shedding leaves. It was cool, and the streams of pilgrims in front of Lenin's Mausoleum flowed in and out incessantly. Again I fell in line with them in the same pilgrim's mood.

Then I visited the city bearing the name of Lenin, the birth-place of the October Revolution. The battleship «Avrora» was berthed on the quiet Neva. The Smolny palace — the office of Lenin after the people had taken power — looked as majestic as ever.

My driver, who had lived nearly nine hundred days under the siege of the Hitlerite fascists in this city, said with emphasis:

"The fascists killed nearly seventy thousand people in these nine hundred days. But death itself trembled in face of our vitality. The Vietnamese people, too, are defeating the death sown on their land by the US imperialists, and they, too, will be the victor."

This driver, whose name I dit not have time to ask for, had taken part in the fight to defend Leningrad, as an airborne machine-gunner. He just spoke up the feeling of other citizens of Leningrad, who had also suffered war and had also taken up arms to protect their homeland, and who, therefore, unreservedly throw in their lot with the cause of the Vietnamese people. In his enthusiasm as a comrade-in-arms, he guided me through the city and showed me whatever was associated with the memory of Lenin.

I went to Razliv two times on two successive days. Razliv, that small town some 70 kilometres from Leningrad, became quite familiar to me all of a sudden, and all of a sudden it took possession of my heart and my mind.

The car passed a level-crossing, went along a small path, round a lake lost in the shade of white poplars, and stopped in front of the house of Emilianov, railroad worker, Red guard, bodyguard, and comrade-in-arms of the great leader. He had died some years ago, and his house, had been turned into a museum. Inside the house, I felt very sad. There were many guests, but the host and hostess were no longer there. Everything was left in its old place — the sewing-machine of Emilianova, the stove and the utensils with which the hostess had cooked Lenin's meals. I went up the narrow stairs to the attic. The creaking of the stairs gave me the impression of hearing the footsteps of Lenin, who used to spend his time upstairs and come down only at meal-time. The only furniture in the attic inclinded a table and two chairs. Such had been the office of the gifted leader before the battleship "Avrora" opened up. It had been on this table that Lenin had charted the course of the Russian Socialist Revolution, the course for the oppressed and exploited.

There was, also on the bank of this poplar-shaded lake, a much smaller "house". In fact, it was a hut, where Lenin had spent many days rain or shine. It seemed as if Lenin had just gone out for a moment. There were still a few half-burnt twigs, a knife, an axe, a few pots. A few yards away, there were two tree stumps, the one a little higher than the other. There were Lenin's table and chair. Alone there, in the woods, Lenin had been fired by a great belief. It was there that he had fathered the Soviet state and the Revolution, and had taught the oppressed how to wrest back power and how to run their countries.

I followed the road Lenin had taken to the old Finnish railway station. Had he been there? Yes. The muzik Ivanov, short, clean-shaven, clad in a cap and the clothes of a Finnish worker, had been there. He had taken train number 203. That had been Lenin. The station was still there, so was the engine, looking as if fresh back from a journey. I looked at the face of each of the many people streaming into the station, hoping to identify the muzik Ivanov. But, Lenin, when he had come to where I was, had given just a short speech to the masses, and gone off again.

I found him at last, the man whose photo I had saved from a newspaper. I found him peacefully resting at the historic Red Square. He looked the same as I had seen him many ago, the same gentle but energetic, resolute look. There were the same smiling eyes which used to radiate cheerfulness when he was talking to peasants. His right fist was clenched — he was still holding firm in it the destiny of this vast democracy. And his forehead, broad forehead, still shone with eternal truth — the truth of the proletariat.

Lenin, the great orator *(N N. Jouhov)*

Lenin was still there, in the heart of the Red Square.

Yet, he was everywhere, among the explorers in the North Pole, among the oil-workers in the Caspian Sea, among Siberian collective farmers, among the cosmonauts, among the hundreds of millions of other Soviet citizens, among millions of other workingmen throughout the world.

Lenin! He has brought glory to this vast land, by dint of hard work and an unyielding struggle. Our country, too, has risen up, and is living the yesterdays of the Soviet Union. The land of Lenin is backing our own land with all its might, and the sweat of its brows. O beloved Viet Nam! In the present image of the Soviet Union you can see in anticipation your own bright future. May you live for ever Viet Nam, my motherland. May you live for ever, Soviet Union, the land of Lenin! There is no more vibrant tribute to Lenin's memory than Viet Nam's fighting feats and the Soviet Union's construction achievements.

HUYNH VAN LY

SVN NFL and LFTU Delegations to LENIN's Centenary

At the invitation of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee, the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee appointed a delegation headed by Mr. Ho Xuan Son, member of the Secretariat of the NFL CC to attend Lenin's Centenary celebrations.

Also on this occasion, the South Viet Nam Liberation Trade Unions' Federation delegation led by Mr. Nguyen Van Hoa, member of its Executive Committee arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions of the Soviet Union to participate in Lenin's 100th anniversary and May Day celebrations.

60,000 Saigon students protest strike goes on

SAIGON and many other towns and cities in South Viet Nam have been in the throes of an anti US-puppet student and labour unrest.

It is not accidental that Nguyen Van Thieu said: "Our nation is now like a patient in need of remedy" (Saigon Radio, April 7, 1970). Since April 5, 1970, 60,000 students of South Viet Nam universities and colleges have been staging a nation-wide strike for an indefinite time. Five hundred delegates of students of universities, colleges and vocational schools and of five high schools in Saigon have held an emergency meeting to discuss measures to cope with the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique's repression.

A number of students have shaved their heads or slashed their wrists and written with the blood letters to Nguyen Van Thieu demanding that he meet their claims.

The Saigon puppet authorities have resorted to such tricks as placating, division, bullying and downright repression.

They have released 17 out of 40 students illegally arrested. The rest are still detained and will have to face trial before different tribunals.

They have ordered some others to surrender themselves and promised rewards to those who can supply information on their whereabouts. They have cordoned off with barbed wire entanglements and thousands of police the streets leading to the "National Assembly" and the "President's palace" to block students' marches to those buildings. On the other hand, they have surrounded the universities to prevent all meetings. The spokesman of the students' "Committee of Action" commented that "the police regime has ousted the students from everywhere, even their schools" (*AFP*, April 7).

The present large-scale action carried out by students is another natural out growth of the movement of the students and people of South Viet Nam towns and cities against the US and their lackeys. It has enlisted greater and greater support from the toiling people, intellectuals, personalities, pressmen and religious dignitaries as well as deputies in Saigon. Many patriotic mass organizations have also backed this courageous action and "pledge themselves to be faithful and dependable comrades-in-arms of the Saigon students" (statement of the South Viet Nam Patriotics Teachers' Association of March, 29, 1970). The message sent on April 2, 1970 by the Da Nang Liberation TU Federation to the Saigon General Students' Association stressed "So long as the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of traitors is not toppled, the democratic freedoms of the students as well as of us, workers and labouring people, cannot be guaranteed".

Puppet army's war invalids oppose Thieu-Ky-Khiem

TENS of thousands of disabled veterans and war wounded of the Saigon puppet army have over recent days taken to the streets in protest against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime and for better living conditions.

The Saigon military junta's police thugs had previously forced 400 families of puppet soldiers, policemen and civil servants out of the Vinh Hoi area, Saigon's 4th precinct, and moved many soldiers' houses from the Nam Long area, 6th precinct, then grabbed their land, thus rendering homeless a great number of war invalids and their families. Not a few of them had to build makeshift huts right in the streets and around the Office of Disabled Veterans and War Wounded. (*AFP* on March 29, 1970 reported that in the vicinity of the French Cemetery alone there were 308 families of war invalids living in huts.

Saigon disabled veterans and war wounded put up a stubborn resistance to such an arbitrary measure, using even hammers and stones against the thugs. They marched to the Saigon Town Hall to lodge their protest and claims for compensations and accommodations.

On April 4, 1970 over 100 war invalids including cripples and blind men groped their way up to the Saigon puppet "National Assembly" building to demand greater allowances and cancellation of a decree forbidding war veterans to work and earn their living. Saigon "House Speaker" Nguyen Ba Luong was forced to receive them. Driven into a corner by the protesters' questioning, he attempted to sooth them by dangling before their eyes a big sum of money, but was firmly rebuffed and eventually slipped away. The petitioners then called an on-the-spot press conference to denounce the harsh treatment they had been receiving at the hands of the Saigon administration. After that they marched to the "Independence Palace", shouting, "We cripples are coming to say 'Hurrah' to Mr President!"

Field policemen were dispatched by the ruling military junta against them. Many invalids were beaten and fell on the ground but the protesters did not flinch; they resisted the police's blows and proceeded on to the square in front of the "Independence Palace" while chanting protest slogans.

On the evening of April 4, 1970 the Thieu-Ky-Khiem regime again encouraged fresh on disabled veterans and war wounded in the Tan Phu area, close to Tan Son Nhat airport: its local "people's defence corps" was ordered to open fire on them wounding four. Upon that, one war invalid carried the most seriously wounded among the four to the gates of the "Independence Palace" amidst loud shouts. Once again, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem police, armed with automatic weapons, swang into action. The invalids met force with force, then staged a sit-in to press for satisfaction of their claims.

On the morning of April 4, 1970 the Saigon puppets mustered a big police task force, armed with guns, for the position of the "Independence Palace" and the "National Assembly" building. Barbed-wire fences were set up around the places. Meanwhile in many streets police cordons were set up to check the fighting invalids and students' movements. Traffic was thus hindered in many districts. Fierce and bloody clashes took place in several spots between the Cathedral and the "Independence". To prevent the war invalids gathered around the Cathedral from joining those who were staging the sit-in in front of the "Independence Palace", the police-men used cudgel. Clashes again occurred and many invalids were seriously injured.

The actions of the angry disabled veterans and war wounded and the militant students forced the traitors' chieftain, puppet "President" Nguyen Van Thieu, to leave his "Independence Palace" on April 7 to seek refuge at Vung Tau, while puppet "Vice President" Nguyen Cao Ky had to lie low in his Tan Son Nhat airbase and was kept abreast with the developments in Saigon by phone.

The Saigon regime's inhumane treatment of these very soldiers it has sent to the battlefront as cannon-fodder for the US imperialists has stirred a mighty wave of discontent among the people.

In our liberated zone

An iron stranglehold in a Tay Nguyen village

B. lies along a strategic artery and in the vicinity of enemy garrisons. No sooner had American troops set foot in the Tay Nguyen Highlands than they started "pacifying" the village with all the resources at their command.

But all the wings of endless flights of aeroplanes could not over shadow this tiny land. Their roars and the rumbling of tanks and the pounding of ordnance pieces could not silence the calls of the rivers and mounts around. Neither could American dollars win the hearts and minds of the population.

Since members of the local guerrilla group managed to break into a post and captured enough weapons to arm themselves and their comrades, resistance had been given a strong impetus. Their gun reports were heard more and more often. Spiked pits and mine-traps had steadily been making their way toward the garrisons and the village, standing under the noses of the enemy armed to the teeth, had turned into a veritable stranglehold for them.

The occupants, who were aware of the situation sent strong detachments to B, with the support of tanks and bombers. Killings began at the same time as youth pressganging and resettlement of the population. At night artillery wantonly opened fire. Toxic chemicals were prayed extensively to deny the people the sources of life and thereby to weaken their determination.

On a spring day a "pacification" platoon irrupted into B. As the commander, most truculently ordered the villagers to move to another place and settle in a strategic hamlet that they would have to build with their own labour, someone, speaking on behalf of his co-villagers, snapped out, "We shall neither leave our houses nor build 'strategic hamlets'. We shall remain here, we shall not go anywhere at any cost."

Thus the resistance began. On the one hand the local people firmly and patiently, tried to argue. On the other, the guerrillas did not lose sight of American and puppet troops. In the day-time snipers cut them down one by one. At night, when they had clustered in their quarters, our fighters assailed them at the most unexpected moment, killing many at a time. They ambushed enemy convoys and put tanks and military vehicles out of action. Hiding in trenches and braving heavy shelling from the air, they shot down aeroplanes and helicopters. But what the occupants dreaded most were the many kinds of traps which might cost them their arms and legs if not their lives. Harassed round the clock, Yankee and puppet soldiers could neither eat nor sleep quietly and finally withdrew from B. to put end a hardly tenable situation.

In commemoration of Liberation Day, all the inhabitants gathered in an open space in the middle of the village. They sung folk songs to the sound of gongs and drums. While eating pork and drinking the traditional wine from a jar with a long, tiny bamboo stem, men, women and children told one another stories about how each in his own way and with his own means, they had contributed to getting rid of American and puppet soldiers.

Raising his voice, the oldest man of the Village addressed the gathering:

"The enemy wanted to drive us away and herd us into a "strategic hamlet". Not only none of us has left this place, but we have talked thirty five of their men into crossing over to the people's side. We have duly punished wicked thugs and wiped out all "pacification" agents. We have won. Our forests, our mountains rejoice at our feat. But the enemy still has aeroplanes and guns, they will certainly come back. We should make more arrows, and spikes. We should grow more rice and manioc to feed our guerillas. Together with them, we all should stand ready to fight and achieve more successes."

Now, on a flowery board standing in the middle of the village one can read the following: In eight months, the people and guerrillas of B. fought 154 engagements, killed 480 advere troops(including 270 Americans), wounded 93 (41 Americans) captured 4, destroyed 22 vehicles (11 tanks and armored personnel carriers), brought down 19 planes and damaged 9 others, demolished 29 blockhouses, set afire 34 buildings (an ammunition, store and a petrol dump), liquidated 13 wicked officials and informers. Women guerrillas and children alone have been credited with 22 fruitful engagements, 5 enemy casualties, 4 planes downed and 5 armoured vehicles destroyed.

Faithful to the revolution, village B. has valiantly stood up to the enemy as an iron wall, thwarting their scheme to transform it into a "strategic hamlet". It has been awarded six Liberation Medals by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the kSVN which regards it as the standard bearer of guerrilla warfare on Tay Nguyen Front.

Hail the Arab Syrian People's Splendid Achievements!

ON April the 17th, 1970 the people of the Arab Republic of Syria are commemorating the 24th anniversary of their country's proclamation of independence.

In the past 24 years, there has been a sustained effort to defend and consolidate national independence and to build a prosperous country. In the recent years, under the government led by the BAATH party, tremendous changes have been worked: democratic reforms like the confiscation of landlords' holdings by the tens of thousands of hectare for distribution to peasants, economic measures like reduction of consumer goods' prices, material improvements like running water for the countryside, health drives like the wiping out of malaria... Many sizeable agricultural, communication and hydraulic projects including the Euphrates Dam with Soviet aid, the Rakka-Deir-Ezzor railway, the Damas airport have been completed or near completion. The first government-run oil fields in the nation's history have been opened, with a planned output of 5 millions tons of crude oil in 1970.

Naturally, independent Syria's progress has been highly disturbing for the US and British imperialists, who cannot stomach its government's nationalization of their oil firms and imposition of a 50% increase in tax on oil in transit through Syria. There have been incessant sabotage and subversive machinations against her, of which Israeli aggression against her, and occupation of a portion of her territory is one case in point. She has broken off diplomatic relations with the USA, Great Britain and West Germany and rejected the UN Security resolution on the Mideast. She is at present on her mettle in developing her national defence potential, with a single eye to beating off other Israeli attacks and recovering her lost land, to defending her sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and doing her share in the struggle of the people of Arab Palestine. On April 2, 1970 she fought off an Israeli assault, dealt a shattering blow at the aggressor's "military strength and air supremacy" by inflicting on him the loss of 7 planes, capturing 2 pilots, wiping out 120 troops, destroying 25 tanks and armoured cars and 25 other vehicles.

To the South Vietnamese who have been hitting hard at the US aggressors, such achievements are as highly gratifying as their own. They are completely behind the people of Syria in her effort to preserve her national independence, to force Israel to withdraw from her occupied territory and respect the Arab countries' sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity as well as the Arab Palestine people's legitimate national rights.

Staunch backing has been given by the government and people of the Arab Republic of Syria to the just cause of the South Vietnamese. She was one of the first countries to recognize the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and establish diplomatic relations with the latter at ambassadorial level. In the past few years, many delegations of the South Viet Nam people, National Front for Liberation and Provisional Revolutionary Government have visited Syria and received a hearty welcome from her Government, leading party and people.

These have always unreservedly approved the Front's 10-point program as a reliable and fair basis for the peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam issue.

The South Vietnamese are highly appreciative of such sympathy and support. The fact that they are fighting the same enemy, US imperialism, as Syria, shortens the great geographic distance between them and the Syrian people and strengthens their militant friendship and brotherliness. They derive powerful inspiration from the latter's achievements for their own national liberation struggle.

"THE HIRON VICTORY" SPIRIT WILL SHINE FOR EVER

THIS year, April 17th, the day of the Hiron victory, is observed by the heroic Cuban people amidst the great enthusiasm with which they welcome the success of the historic 10-10 campaign in which six million Cubans have produced six million tons of sugar, or more than half the total production targeted for the ten million-ton zafra.

Every year, on April 17th, the Cuban people and all progressive mankind proudly remember the Hiron battle as a victory without precedent in the history of the Western hemisphere. Nine years ago, on the same day, the heroic Cuban people led by the Cuban Communist Party and respected Major Fidel Castro, won a glorious victory on the Hiron beach, thus delivering a stunning blow at the US imperialist aggressors.

This victory is a great historical landmark testifying to the revolutionary heroism of the Cuban people in the defence of their independence and peace.

Celebrating the Hiron victory today, all the world's peoples recall the fierce battle given for 72 hours running by the Cuban armed forces in co-ordination with the local people, in which the adventurous military landing in Cuba by the US aggressors was crushed and thousands of their mercenaries wiped out or captured.

Since this memorable day, the Cuban people have unceasingly heightened their vigilance and stood ready to fight and defend their free island now marching forward to the peaks of socialism.

In the high spirit of the Hiron victory, the Cuban people have recorded splendid achievements in socialist construction, achievements which contribute to their happiness and wealth.

In this Hiron spirit, the Cuban people have successfully fought off natural calamities, powerfully developed their industry and strengthened their national defence. Just as they defeated the US imperialists at Hiron in the past, today they are scoring glorious successes in the historic 10-10 campaign.

How honoured the South Viet Nam people feel to have such a true comrade-in-arms as the heroic Cuban people! How proud the Hiron unit of our People's Liberation Armed Forces feels to be bound by a sworn brotherhood to the heroic units who fought on Hiron beach!

The Hiron spirit is constantly vivid in the minds of the fighters in the "Hiron" PLAF unit and of all other armymen and people in South Viet Nam now fighting daily and hourly against the American aggressors.

On the occasion of April 17th, expressing his esteem and respect for the "resolved-to-fight-and-to-win" spirit of the Cuban people, Mr. Tran Nam Trung, Defence Minister of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, said in his message to Major Raul Castro Ruz, Minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces: "Together with the South Vietnamese people, the People's Liberation Armed Forces are resolved to pursue the war of resistance against the US and for national salvation till total victory."

LETTERS
from our readers

D.M. CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA, N.Y. USA:
Generally well done. Occasional mis-spellings and grammatical errors. Photos sometimes unclear.

G. MACKELCLEY, MARBURG LAHN, GARTENWEY 2, WEST-GERMANY:
Short time ago, I found your newspaper "South Viet Nam in struggle". I am very interested to receive more information about your country.

MICHAEL PAYNE, BRAMSCHE, MALGARTENER ST, 2A, WEST GERMANY:
Thank you very much for sending me regularly your very informative magazine.

I am observing with great interest and profound feeling the development of the war waged by your people against the US imperialists. Not long ago we were able to see and hear in this country little Vo-Thi-Lien of My Lai village, who survived the bestial massacre and lived to tell the story around the world. Her eye witness account made we realize how close Viet Nam and its national struggle are to us and strengthened my own deep resolve to pick up the struggle against those pulling the strings, those who in this country are earning well on the Viet Nam aggression.

Your struggle is our struggle. Every one of your victories is our victory.

HARALD DAHL, POSTBOOKS 72, BLINDERN, OSLO 3, NORWAY:
I have heard about your paper "South Viet Nam in struggle". Being in complete solidarity with the liberation struggle of the Vietnamese people, I will ask you to commence sending it to me.

J.T.M. CURATOR — LIBRARIAN, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA, USA:
As a leading research institution in this country we deeply appreciate your kindness in sending us the following publication: "South Viet Nam in struggle." It is a valuable source of information for our research people.

STATEMENT
by RSVN Foreign Ministry
on Lon Nol—Sirik Matak's crimes against Vietnamese residents

Following is the full text of the statement issued on April 13 by the RSVN Foreign Ministry condemning the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique's acts of terror against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia:

"ON April 9, 1970 the Lon Nol Sirik-Matak reactionary clique, lackeys of the US in Cambodia, committed an extremely barbarous crime near Prasaut, in Svey Rieng province: killing more than 100 Vietnamese residents, and wounding hundreds of others, mostly old persons, women and children.

This bloody slaughter was perpetrated along with the arrest, detention, beating and liquidation of hundreds of Vietnamese residents, ransacking of the houses and plunder of the property of thousands of Vietnamese families in Phnom Penh and Cambodian provinces, and the herding into concentration camps of many Vietnamese residents in a number of border provinces.

The above said extremely serious acts of terror and massacre, together with the Cambodian reactionaries feverish campaign against Viet Nam are obviously aimed at covering up their crime of opposing the South Vietnamese people's just resistance war, in order to serve the US imperialists' "Vietnamization of the war" program.

These schemes are also aimed at misleading the Khmer people who, responding to the appeal of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, are resolutely opposing the coup makers and their US bosses.

The Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique have unmasked themselves as henchmen of the US imperialist aggressors.

The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam vehemently denounce and severely condemn the Cambodian reactionaries for terrorizing and massacring Vietnamese residents.

The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of RSVN resolutely demand that the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak reactionaries immediately stop the current campaign of massacre and terror against Vietnamese residents, set free all those Vietnamese groundlessly detained by them, ensure to the Vietnamese residents the right of residence and normal life according to international law. First of all they must pay compensations to the families of those killed, manhandled and plundered.

With their tradition of solidarity and mutual assistance, the Vietnamese residents in Cambodia will help one another, and strengthen solidarity with the fraternal Khmer people, to shatter all perfidious schemes of the US imperialists and the reactionary Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique to sow division and national enmity, thereby contributing to the struggle of the two peoples to defend their national rights and ensure the development of each country according to its own way.

The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN urgently call on the peoples and governments of the freedom and justice-loving countries, the democratic and humanitarian organizations the world over, to vigorously condemn the Cambodian reactionaries' acts of persecution and massacre of Vietnamese residents and take effective measures to check their criminal acts.

If the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak reactionary clique obdurately continues their policy of terror and massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia in defiance of the protest of the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples and progressive world public opinion, they must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from their criminal acts.

Undeniable proof of US intervention in Cambodia: American and Southvietnamese officers (puppet) talking with Lon Nol - Sirik Matak's armed border guards on the South Viet Nam-Cambodia border.

CAMBODIA:

Khmer people rose up against US and henchmen

PEOPLE in many places in Svey Rieng and Prey Veng provinces, Cambodia, on April 4, 5 and 6, rose up in response to Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's call for resistance against the US imperialists and the Khmer reactionaries.

According to reports from Cambodia over three thousand Khmers demonstrated in Chanteria district, Svey Rieng, on April 4 and 5. The demonstrators, armed with jungle knives or sticks, held aloft Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's portraits and slogans condemning the US imperialists and the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique. Frightened, henchmen of the coup-makers fled from many posts and offices. Many of them surrendered to the people with written confessions and weapons.

In Sothongo town, same district, a meeting was organized on April 6 with the participation of over three thousand people. The participants pledged loyalty to Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, and enthusiastically acclaimed the recently set-up local provisional committee of the National United Front of Kampuchea.

Meanwhile, hundreds of young people in the district have joined the patriotic armed forces, the reports added.

The same reports said the armed forces of the NUFK on April 5 took control of Kompong Trach town in Svey Rieng province. A number of the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak agents were punished for their obduracy, many others gave themselves up, while the rest of them fled from the area.

In Prey Veng province, the Khmer patriotic forces on April 4 besieged Krasang post, and took control of the whole area.

LAOS:

More than 10,700 enemy wiped out in five months

ACCORDING to still incomplete figures released by KPL in the first five months of the current dry season in Laos (November 1969—March 1970), the Lao patriots put out of combat 10,700 enemy including many puppet officers, Thai troops and US advisers and "green berets" and shot down or destroyed on the ground 92 US aircraft.

They also seized and destroyed more 2,700 guns of various kinds, 160 radio transmitters, gutted 179 military vehicles and destroyed hundreds of war supplies.

These are the months of fiercest fighting and also of biggest successes for the Lao armed forces and people since their Nam Bac victory, KPL said.

It pointed to the following characteristics of these successes:

1/ They show the offensive position and flexible fighting methods of the various kinds of the Lao patriotic armed forces, and the close co-ordination between the various battlefronts.

2/ They show the growth by leaps and bounds of the patriotic armed forces in the matters of techniques and tactics as well as in command and combat capacities.

3/ These successes, especially those in the destruction of bandits, have helped expand and strengthen the liberated zone into a single stretch from North to South.

4/ They are a vigorous stimulus to the struggle of the population in enemy-held areas and caused further drop in the morale of the enemy troops.

5/ The victories of the counter-raid operations, especially that against the 'Kou Kuet' operation launched by the US and rightist factions in the Plain of Jars—Xieng Khoang region, bear paramount significance since they have dealt a staggering blow to the Nixon doctrine on Asia newly applied in Laos by the US imperialists.

The brilliant victories recorded by the Lao armed forces and people in the last five months demonstrate that though the Lao people still have to face many difficulties in their national salvation fight, the complete defeat of the US imperialists and their stooges in Laos is a certainty, KPL said.

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